

Below please find my testimony:

Dear Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and Members of the Public Health Committee:

As a Licensed Psychologist in Connecticut, I am writing in strong opposition to HB 5521. This legislation, which would grant masters level clinicians the title "psychologist" is seriously flawed, and will harm both the public and the profession of psychology.

The term "psychologist" reflects doctoral level providers (both in Connecticut and on a national level). Were it to pass, doctoral level psychologists (who have between 6-8 years of graduate education) and masters level folks (with 2 years of graduate education), two groups with vastly different training, would have the same designation. This would be akin to calling nurses and PA's doctor - importantly, it confuses the public and misrepresents skill set and training.

The public already finds it difficult to understand the training and education required to be a psychologist, such a law would only increase this confusion.

Master's level clinicians are currently able to become licensed in Connecticut as "Licensed Professional Counselors" (LPC's); a designation that does not confuse the public.

Doctoral level psychologists have a broad and complex skill set, developed through graduate school and formal clinical and research experiences that are quite different in volume, content and scope from the skill set of the master's level clinician. For example, research design and grant management, neuropsychological and psychological assessment, and intervention design and implementation are all unique to the doctoral level psychologist. The degrees are simply not in any way equivalent.

This bill does not impact school psychologists, as they are under the authority of the Department of Education.

For each of these reasons, I am urging you to oppose HB 5521.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kevin Young, Ph.D.  
Clinical Neuropsychologist  
Coordinator - Psychological Testing Service  
Hartford Hospital/Institute of Living  
200 Retreat Avenue  
Research Building, 5th Floor  
Hartford, CT 06106  
Phone: 860.545.7589  
Fax: 860.545.7222